Misuse of MPLADS Funds

5018. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether instance of misuse of MPLADS funds have come to the notice of the Ministry and if so, the details thereof;

(b) if so, the measures taken to ensure proper utilisation of the fund; and

(c) the amount of unused money from the fund released since launching the programme in 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Some complaints regarding misuse of MPLADS funds have been received in this Ministry. The Comptroller & Auditor General of India in its report for the period ending 31st March, 1997 has also pointed out some violation of the guidelines viz. taking up of works without recommendation of the MP/on the recommendation of their representatives, execution of non-permissible works, entrusting works to the contractors, levy of centage charges, non-transfer of ownership of land in favour of government, etc.

Whenever such instances of misuse of MPLADS funds are brought to the notice of the Ministry, these are being taken up with the concerned State Government/District authorities for remedial action. For proper implementation of the Scheme, all the District Heads have been instructed to process and sanction works recommended by the Members of Parliament strictly as per the guidelines. The District authorities have also been advised to sanction works upto the entitlement of Members of Parliament without waiting for the release of funds to derive maximum benefit from the Scheme.

(c) As on 31.3.2000, the Government of India released Rs. 5016.80 crores under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme since its inception in December, 1993 against which an amount of Rs. 3221.21 crores have been spent leaving an unspent amount of Rs. 1795.59 crore.